

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 08772 161009Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SSC-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

----- 051728

R 151720Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3989

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 8772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: EARLY PRESS REACTIONS TO NEW GOVERNMENT

1. THE LEADING MADRID DAILIES HAVE OFFERED DIFFERING, THOUGH GENERALLY FAVORABLE, REACTIONS TO THE NEW GOVT. ALL THE BARCELONA PAPERS HAVE LIKEWISE RUN FAVORABLE STORIES, BUT ALL HAVE AS WELL NOTED THE HIGH PROPORTION OF MINISTERS FROM MADRID AND THE LACK OF ANY CATALANS AT ALL IN THE NEW GOVT.

2. "INFORMACIONES" (INDEPENDENT) WAS THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC, CITING THE LIST OF NEW MINISTERS AS A "GOVERNMENT FOR REFORM." FRAGA, AREILZA, GARRIGUES AND VILLAR MIR WOULD "FORM THE CENTRAL NUCLEUS OF THE GOVERNMENT, A NUCLEUS IN WHICH ONE CAN SEE, DESPITE CERTAIN EARLY AND HASTILY-FORMED IMPRESSIONS, A GREAT UNIFORMITY FOR A REFORMIST PROGRAM." FRAGA WOULD BE THE KEY FIGURE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. "YA" (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT) OFFERED THE MOST RESERVED COMMENT. THE CABINET MEMBERS MET THE TWO PREREQUISITES OF ABILITY AND STATURE AND OF REPRESENTING THE PRINCIPAL POLITICAL TENDENCIES, "BUT WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED SOMETHING MORE IN THE REFORMING LINE." WHAT REMAINS NOW IS TO ESTABLISH "A CLEAR TIMETABLE FOR A PROGRAM OF REFORMS WHICH WILL LEAD US WITHOUT TRAUMAS TO A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY OF THE WESTERN TYPE." COMMENT: "YA" IS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 08772 161009Z

CLOSE TO SILVA MUNOZ, WHO IS ONE OF MAJOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC

LEADERS MISSING IN NEW GOVT LINEUP.

4. "ARRIBA" (NATIONAL MOVEMENT) GREETED THE LIST AS "A GOVERNMENT OF FRANCOIST CONCENTRATION," NOTING THE OLD BALANCING OF FALANGISTS, "TRADITIONALISTS," OPUS DEI TECHNOCRATS, ETC., HAD NO VALIDITY FOR THIS GOVT WHICH WAS BUILT FROM THE NEW POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS.

5. "ABC" (MONARCHIST) SAID THAT THE LINEUP, ESPECIALLY THE INCLUSION OF THE NEW MEN, WAS OF A "REFORMIST SPIRIT," A MOST NECESSARY THING FOR "SELLING THE NEW IMAGE OF SPAIN," CITING THE INCLUSION OF AREILZA AND GARRIGUES AS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR THE SETTling OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE AND WITH THE VATICAN.

6. IN GENERAL THE RECEPTION HAS BEEN FAVORABLE IN THE MEDIA AND AMONG MANY POLITICAL COMMENTATORS. THOSE WHO WISH CONTINUITY (SUCH AS "EL ALCAZAR," THE NEWSPAPER OF THE EX-COMBATANTS' ASSOCIATION) HAVE FOUND IT IN THE HIGH NUMBER OF OLD "FACES" SUCH AS AREILZA, GARRIGUES AND SOLIS RUIZ. THOSE WHO WISH POLITICAL PROGRESS FIND IT IN THE GENERAL CONSENSUS AMONG MOST OF THESE OLD "FACES" THAT CHANGE IS NECESSARY--E.G., AREILZA, GARRIGUES--EVEN IF, LIKE THE OPPOSITION'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER, JOAQUIN RUIZ-GIMENEZ, THEY FEEL THAT SOME IN THE CABINET DO NOT SHARE THE GENERAL DESIRE FOR CHANGE. ALL AGREE IN UNDERLINING THE ROLE FRAGA PLAYS IN THE CABINET AND IN STRESSING HIS IMPORANCE IN THE FORMULATION OF THE NEW GOVT'S PROGRAM.

7. FRAGA HIMSELF HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN OBTAINING SUPPORT IN THE PRESS. HE HAS BEEN MOST ACTIVE SINCE HIS RETURN FROM ENGLAND SHORTLY BEFORE FRANCO'S DEATH--IN PARTICULAR, HIS ALMOST AMERICAN-STYLE "ELECTIONEERING" IN BARCELONA WHICH INCLUDED VISITS TO FACTORIES, SPEECHES AND HANDSHAKING, ALSO IN BARCELONA HE PRESIDED OVER A DINNER OF HIS OWN STUDY-GROUP GODSA (GABINETE DE ORENTACION Y DOCUMENTACION) AT WHICH WERE AWARDED THE MANUEL FRAGA IRIBARNE PRIZES IN JOURNALISM. THE TWO WINNERS WERE ANTONIO ALEMANY, DIRECTOR OF THE INDEPENDENT "DIARIO DE MALLORCA", AND LUIS GONZALEZ SEARA, PRESIDENT OF "CAMBIO 16." "CAMBIO 16" HAS BEEN THE MOST SEQUESTERED OF THE POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 08772 161009Z

NEWSMAGAZINES IN SPAIN. GONZALEZ SEARA IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL STUDY CORPORATION, FEDISA, WHICH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH FRAGA'S POLITICAL FRIENDS.  
EATON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID08772  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750436-0823  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751240/aaaabjbr.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EARLY PRESS REACTIONS TO NEW GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006